

**MINUTES of Edgewood Community Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2015**

- A. Call to order: A regular meeting of the Edgewood Community Advisory Board was held in the Southern Police Precinct, Edgewood, Maryland on September 10, 2015. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Chair Lawrence K. Montgomery Jr. presiding, Parliamentarian Kimberly Bean acting as Secretary.

B. Roll Call.

Members in attendance:

- Lawrence Montgomery Jr, President
- N. Quynn Budzynski, Vice President
- Kimberly Bean, Parliamentarian
- Denise D. Montgomery
- Christine Holthaus
- Jansen Robinson
- Karla Simon

Members Excused:

- Cara Middendorf, Secretary

Members not in attendance:

- Diane Rucker Welsh

C. Pledge/Prayer completed.

D. Approval of minutes:

No minutes to approve this month, due to last meeting being a closed board meeting. Minutes will be read at the next meeting and will also be posted to the county website.

E. Acknowledgments/Recognitions:

Chair Lawrence K Montgomery asked that each attendee share their name and the name of the neighborhood in which they reside. This was in order to assess which neighborhoods had representation at the meeting. Residents of the following neighborhoods were represented: West Shore, Harford Square, Harbor Oaks, Edgewater, Sunrise Condominiums, Flying Point, and individual homes near Woodbridge. Additionally, the following acknowledgements/recognitions were made:

- Cynthia Lince (County Executive's Office)
- Patricia Gonzalez (Citizens Affairs Specialist)
- Mike Perrone (Councilman District A)
- Donna Blasdell (Legislative Aide to Perrone)
- Sam Kahl (Chief of Staff for Sen. Robert Cassilly)
- Dion Guthrie

F. Old business/unfinished business:

a. Proposed homeless shelter update:

- i. Many citizens attended an informal informational meeting at the Edgewood Library to express their opinions and concerns about the proposal.
- ii. The Hope for the Homeless Alliance has decided to pull their proposal for the site in Edgewood, therefore all further meetings which had been scheduled on the topic have been cancelled.

**MINUTES of Edgewood Community Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2015**

G. New Business:

- a. The Episcopal Housing Corporation in conjunction with the New Hope Christian Fellowship discussed a proposal for a 50 unit, mixed income, apartment building to be built on the current site of the New Hope Christian Fellowship (at the end of Watergate Ct. on a 5 acre plot).
  - i. These would be one to three bedroom units and would be rented to people of different incomes, but that no one would pay more than 30% of their incomes.
  - ii. Shannon Snow, a representative from the Episcopal Housing Corporation shared that they are a nonprofit real estate developer out of Baltimore. She said they mainly do rental projects and have completed many projects in Carroll County, Baltimore City, and Prince George's County.
  - iii. A rendering and site plan were passed around for all to see. The building would be four stories and the plan allows for the site to remain somewhat wooded. The look of the building is intended to be complementary to those around it.
  - iv. Questions from meeting attendees were answered. Tenants would be responsible for their own utilities, but the building is designed to be very energy efficient. A market study indicated a market for these apartments in this area. Ms. Snow suggested that this project may improve the market value for homes around the area, as the building will be well maintained and high quality. Conifer Management will be in charge of managing the property. The proposed builder is Southway Builders. Funding is reported to come from MD State Department of Housing and Community Development, grant funding, as well as a private loan from a bank. With regards to the demographic history of the Episcopal Housing Corporation, Ms. Snow said that there is a wide range of demographics and that it depends on the site.
  - v. A question was posed as to the profit from the building-will the church gain profit from the building? Ms. Snow said that the majority of the money will go into maintaining the building and the property. The church will gain a new space for worship and will be located on the property as well.
  - vi. A New Hope Christian Fellowship representative indicated that they would work with the few homeless that are currently residing on the property.
  - vii. Suggestions were made including making the units rent-to-own, helping to fill abandoned homes in the area, or considering Habitat for Humanity to give people homes rather than rentals.
- b. Community Garden Proposal- Mr. Mike O'Hern
  - i. Proposal is to provide the community of Edgewood, Maryland with a community garden where individuals, families, schools, or non-profit groups may plan, maintain, and harvest vegetables or fruits throughout the year. The proposed location (which may be subject to change) is on Willoughby Beach Road, across from Bours Drive on land owned by the Harford County Land Trust.
  - ii. Plots would be approximately 20x40 feet and about 100-150 plots could be designated with enough room for a parking area, graveled trails, storage sheds, utility poles, and open sided pavilion.
  - iii. Proposal would allow anyone to grow their own fruits and vegetables, regardless of whether they have appropriate space near their home.
  - iv. Classes could be offered in order to teach gardening skills.
  - v. Schools could make use of the plots, as three schools are within walking distance.
  - vi. Plots could be leased for approximately 150 dollars per year, as a suggested amount.

**MINUTES of Edgewood Community Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2015**

- vii. Possibly local businesses would donate or sell supplies at a discount.
- viii. Currently there are several of these gardens in Harford County- one in Forest Hill and five in Havre de Grace.
- ix. Suggestion: Harford Land Trust bought that land-possibly to prevent additional development, perhaps research more on what the land is planned for. Mike Perrone thought maybe the land was for a planned park.
- x. Board members requested more information about the cost of this project and its feasibility.
- c. The Edgewood Farmer's Market has relocated to the EPICENTER in Edgewood at 1918 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040. Each Farmer's market will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month through October 2015. .

H. Board Committee Reports: No Committee Reports.

I. Harford County Government Update:

- a. Ms. Patricia Gonzales (Citizen's Affairs Specialist from the County Executive's Office, filling in for Andrew Tress):
  - i. There is a program called "Start Up Maryland" Where citizens can pitch their ideas to a broad group and get feedback. They may also win a prize. John Sullivan is the contact for this program.
  - ii. Outsourcing with MES agreement has been finalized and prices will not be raised for services at the landfill. Everything will proceed as always.
  - iii. Dept. of Emergency Services will be having a "Prepare Because you Care" four week event starting Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. [www.harfordpublicsafety.org/pBYCForm.cfm](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org/pBYCForm.cfm)
  - iv. There was a Town Hall meeting at HCC Darlington about the heroin epidemic. It was standing room only and very informative.
  - v. A new permit center has opened on the first floor of 220 S. Main Street, Bel Air.
- b. Capt. Donald Gividend (Commander of Southern Precinct)
  - i. Has 19 years with Sheriff's office, has been involved in a range of units from K-9 to undercover. He will be attending the ECAB meetings and provide us with statistics from the Sector 10 area (which includes Edgewood and Joppatowne).
  - ii. May contact him at [Gividend@harfordsheriff.org](mailto:Gividend@harfordsheriff.org)
  - iii. Typically there are four deputies on duty at a time in this area, in addition to K9 officers, Crime Suppression Unit officers, School Resource Officers, etc.
  - iv. Statistics: \*note- with regards to thefts/burglaries, typically cases are solved in groups, as they were committed by the same offenders.

As of Sept 10, 2015	2014
97 nonfatal heroin overdoses	
21 fatal heroin overdoses	30 fatal heroin overdoses
44 robberies	40
131 burglaries	90 burglaries
33 motor vehicle thefts	29 motor vehicle thefts
1 homicide	2 homicides
12 sexual assaults	8 sexual assaults
74 aggravated assaults	87 aggravated assaults
330 thefts	355 thefts
3 arsons	5 arsons

**MINUTES of Edgewood Community Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2015**

- c. Councilman Perrone:
  - i. On the homeless shelter proposal- In January several Harford County pastors came together to form the Hope for the Homeless Alliance. They felt that without centralization they were less effective. They looked at the balance of services throughout the county (e.g. men, women, families). They looked at three properties in late June and early July. They then scheduled the community meeting. After the meeting, he said he told the developer to pull the project. He said there were several questions that still need to be answered such as, "Is one big shelter better than several smaller shelters?" He indicated that this project will come up again when a new property is found.

J. Comments from citizens:

- a. O'Hern- Naloxone (Narcan) Program- There are classes for medical, fire, and police personnel, as well as family/friends of those addicted to heroin. There are 400 spots left for certification. This can save the life of someone who has overdosed on heroin. Addicts may be able to get the kits from their pharmacy under their insurance.
- b. Citizen asked Capt. Givident if the Sheriff's Department allows ride alongs. Answer: Yes, go to website for more information.
- c. Citizen asked Capt. Givident if Section 8 officials are notified of drug seizures. Answer: There is a meeting every other Wednesday with Safe Streets Now and HEAT and an agent from housing is there. However, after the information is communicated to housing, we are not kept informed of what happens from there.
- d. Citizen asked Capt. Givident if statistics could be provided on number of arrests, amount of money seized, etc., for measures of progress.
  - i. Answer: This summer the precinct had an initiative to combat increased violence and calls which typically occur in the summer months. The initiative began just after school let out for the summer and just ended. During that time period every hour between 10AM and 3AM, a deputy would be on one of the roads in the target area (Gremplar/Brookside and artery roads). As a result, there were not stabbings or shootings in the target area during the time of the initiative.
  - ii. Additionally, there were 4 DUI arrests, 9 traffic arrests, 19 criminal arrests, 23 warrants served, and 19 drug recoveries during the initiative.
- e. Citizen asked Lt. Givident about something going on in their neighborhood and why it takes so long for action when they are given good information about a crime.
  - i. Investigations can take months to gather information
  - ii. Sometimes arrests, etc. can take place away from the home
  - iii. Sometimes they are going for "bigger fish" moving up the chain.
- f. Citizen asked Councilman Perrone if there is any truth to the rumor that money for homeless to use hotels was being discontinued. Answer: No, money will still be there. Last year the county spent over \$100,000 on hotel rooms (county figure). Faith based establishments estimate they spent more than the county did on hotel rooms.
- g. Citizen asked Councilman Perrone if there was other interest in real estate where the proposed shelter was going to be. Answer: No.
- h. Mr. Dion Guthrie indicated that Route 40 is Edgewood Main Street and is no place for a homeless shelter. A long time ago they wanted to put one on Route 7 between 152 and 755. Industrial parks are now a good idea for homeless shelters. There is one in Belcamp that has been very successful because buses come to industrial parks and there are jobs readily available.
- i. Citizen commented that she has seen refugees with lots of people in a tent, which have been unsuccessful. Also she thought that the presentation at the community meeting regarding the homeless shelter was lacking thought and information.

**MINUTES of Edgewood Community Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2015**

- j. Citizen commented that transportation is not available at the previously proposed site for the homeless shelter. Also concerned that there are no resources for the homeless besides the shelter in the proposal.
  - k. A suggestion was made that ECAB be advised before the next public meeting for any homeless shelter development in Edgewood.
    - i. Councilman Perrone said that these start as a private deal and eventually are made public. However, they need to wait until both parties feel comfortable that they are going to go through with the deal before it is made public.
  - l. Donna Bladsell (Legislative Aide to Councilman Perrone):
    - i. Edgewood Development Corporation began with trying to put together Edgewoodstock. However, it was too expensive (insurance etc.), and in order to apply for tourism grants, they needed to become a nonprofit organization.
    - ii. Edgewood has sustainable community designation and so it can apply for grants.
    - iii. Mike Perrone drafted bylaws.
    - iv. Corporation members live, work, volunteer, or worship in Edgewood.
    - v. The board would consist of seven members- four residents and three others.
    - vi. The first meeting will be held on 9/21 at 7pm at the Southern Precinct.
    - vii. There is currently no operating budget.
    - viii. Hoping to increase economic development in Edgewood. It will allow the corporation to apply for hotel tax and apply for grants.
  - m. Citizen commented that the EPICENTER Zone Project is looking for volunteers to help kids after school from 3-6pm.
  - n. Comment that there needs to be more publicity about ECAB meetings and a suggestion was made for flyers to be hung at supermarkets or churches.
- K. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Kimberly Bean

Parliamentarian

Edgewood Community Advisory Board

Date of approval: